

# Reclaim Education

Notes on the global struggle



(left image) in Davao City (Philippines) during a rally on Nov.30th  
(right image) during the demonstration in Santiago

## About this newsletter

This newsletter is part of the communication infrastructure of the independent platform "International Student Movement" (ISM). The ISM is being used and shaped by education activists and groups around the world who are struggling against the increasing privatisation of public education and for free emancipatory education for all.

This newsletter is the result of voluntary work done by a few individuals who are passionate about this issue. The positions expressed are not in any way representative for any group or the "International Student Movement" as a whole.

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## After the "Global Wave" is before the "Global Wave"

Most of you probably noticed how the "Global Wave of Action for Education" unfolded since it kicked off on October 7 with rallies, sit-ins and other actions across the U.S.A.

It was followed by mostly massive protests against the increasing privatisation of education and for free emancipatory education in Italy (Oct.8 - now), the Ukraine (Oct.12/Nov.11), Austria (Oct.19/20), Indonesia (Oct.20), Ireland (Nov.3), Nepal (Nov.15 - now), the Philippines (Nov.19-Dec.1), Canada (Nov.24) and Chile (Nov.30). Of course November 17 as the "Global Day of Action" with actions in California,

Lisbon, Manila, Monrovia, Nawan-shahr, Ottawa, Vienna, Skopje, Yogyakarta and cities across Germany, Italy and Poland marked a highlight of the "Global Wave" as well.

During the protests in the past two months hundreds have been detained and were injured by the puppets of the state (the police). Many risked and sacrificed a lot. To take a look at the faces behind the protests check out the complete list of reports with many pictures and videos: [www.emancipating-education-for-all.org](http://www.emancipating-education-for-all.org)  
The flow of information on activities on the global level has definitely improved in the past few months and

weeks. Furthermore the "Global Wave" brought people worldwide closer together. But the actual coordination efforts between for example protests on the Philippines and the UK is something to focus more on in the future.

During the last international chat meeting participants already began to discuss plans for the future. There are mainly two approaches. On one hand we could focus on reorganising the structures of the ISM platform, for example by coordinating regional meetings (e.g. South East Asia, Central America, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, etc). On the other hand there

are ideas to call for a "Spring of Resistance" next year (March-May 2011).

Both ideas will be discussed further during the next chat meeting scheduled for December 12 at 3pm GMT/10am EST on <http://ism.speege.com>  
Many people have observed the recent struggle for free education around the world, but the challenge to bring the various activists, groups, networks and movements together remains. The capitalist economic system unleashes its forces globally, therefore we also need to get organised and strike back globally!

## NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

\* General assemblies, flashmobs and rallies in about 15 cities across Germany.

\* Students began to squat spaces at about 40 universities across Greece.

\* About 200,000 joined demonstrations in about 70 cities across Italy.

\* Hundreds protested at the Regents' meeting at the University of California (U.S.A.) against hikes in tuition fees - 16 were arrested and dozens injured due to the use of batons and pepperspray by the police.

\* Zombie street theatre in Vienna (Austria).

\* About 7000 students came together in Lisbon for the biggest demonstration in Portugal since 2004 to protest against cuts.

\* Rally at the Industrial Technical Institute in Nawanshahr (India) called for by the Punjab Student Union - a video message was recorded.

\* Leaflets were distributed by the group PEM-BEBASAN to inform about the "Global Wave" and the "International Students' Day" in Yogyakarta (Indonesia).

\* Huge banner was dropped at the main building of the University of Ottawa (Canada) expressing solidarity with the global struggle.

\* The independent student group Sloboden Indeks held an artistic performance, a flashmob and speeches on campus at the University of Skopje (Rep. of Macedonia).

\* Flashmobs were arranged at about 10 university cities across Poland.

\* Students held a rally in the capital Manila (Philippines) to protest fees and cuts.

## NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

\* Thousands of students joined a demonstration in Galway (Ireland).

## NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

\* Walk-out and strike by students and faculty staff at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP)

## NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

\* Students began to occupy parts of the School of Oriental Studies (SOAS) in London and the Manchester Metropolitan University, both in the UK

# Resistance Worldwide - For Free Education

\* At the National University of Lesotho seven students were shot when police forces tried to control a protest against the dismissal of a student leader following boycotts of classes for better conditions

## NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>

\* Occupations began to spread in Italy - among others in Pisa, Rome, Palermo and Turin

\* Occupation at the Royal Holloway at the University of London (UK) and University of Plymouth

## NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

\* Huge day of action in the UK with tens of thousands on the streets and occupations at about 15 universities

\* Demonstrations across Italy - students clashed with police when trying to storm the senate building in Rome

\* Occupation of the president's office at the University of Ottawa (Canada) to protest fee hikes

\* Students and professors protested against cuts in Social Sciences and History in Santiago (Chile) - during sit-in they were attacked by police forces, 19 students and 2 professors detained

## NOVEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>

\* Walk-outs, rallies and strikes at universities across the Philippines

\* Occupation at the University of Newcastle (UK)

\* Historical sights across Italy were taken over by students, incl. the Pisa tower and the Colosseum

\* Hundreds protesting in the streets of Santiago (Chile) again

## NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>

\* Strikes on the Philippines continue, 5000 protested in the capital Manila and took over the Finance Department

\* Protests in Italy continue - occupation at the University of Lecce, train station blocked in Genoa

\* Occupation at Cambridge University (UK)

\* About 1000 students staged sit-in at Ministry of Education in Kathmandu (Nepal) in protest for more accessible higher education - students have been on strike at Purbanchal University of the 12th day already

## NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

\* Tens of thousands protesting against austerity measures in Dublin (Ireland), Rome (Italy) and Vienna (Austria)

\* Rally by students and parents in Irkutsk (Russia) against the increasing privatisation of education

## NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

\* About 2000 students rallied in Den Haag (the Netherlands) to protest cuts

## NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

\* Another day of action in the UK: rallies across the region, demonstrations were kettled and close to 200 students detained - ongoing occupations at about 20 institutions within the UK alone

\* Rallies were held, as well as train stations and highways blocked by angry students across Italy

\* About 40 students occupied the chancellor's office at Puerto Rico University (Rio Piedras) to protest fees

\* Symbolic hunger strike in Vienna (Austria) joined by dozens of students to protest cuts

\* About 1000 students protested in Santiago (Chile) against cuts in history and social sciences classes - 46 detained

\* the final day of the "Global Wave" in Austria, Chile, Italy, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and the UK - all on one day!!

## DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>

\* Strikes against fees and cuts at 87 public colleges and universities across the Philippines

\* Over 3,000 protest against fee hikes in Cork City (Ireland)

\* Hundreds of students occupied the Town Hall

of Bologna (Italy)

\* Protests at the University of Texas (U.S.A.) against cuts effecting especially Liberal Arts

## DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

\* Massive demonstration in New Delhi (India) with teachers, parents, students, pupils, faculty staff and other protesting against the increasing privatisation of education

- Thousands of students protested in the streets of Athens (Greece) and clashed with riot police when heading towards the British embassy in support of the ongoing protests in the UK

\* Students began to squat parts of the London School of Economics (UK)

\* Over 800 students gathered for a demonstration in Frankfurt/M (Germany) to commemorate the eviction of an occupation at the Goethe University by riot police exactly one year ago. Furthermore conditions did not change for the better - capitalism still sucks!

\* Protests continued in various cities across Italy

## DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

\* More than 2000 students protested against fees in Quebec City (Canada) despite a snow storm.

\* About 30 students joined a sit-in at the California State University - Monterey Bay library to protest recent fee increases and to attempt to reclaim some space.

\* More than 200 students occupied parts of the Tate (a museum) in London (UK) during a prize ceremony.

## DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

\* Students began a strike at the University of Puerto Rico for 48hour today. The administration hired private "security forces" to attack protesting students. So far one has been seriously injured and one arrested.

\* At about 20 colleges and universities across the UK students hold up occupations. A huge day of action is scheduled for December 9th.